



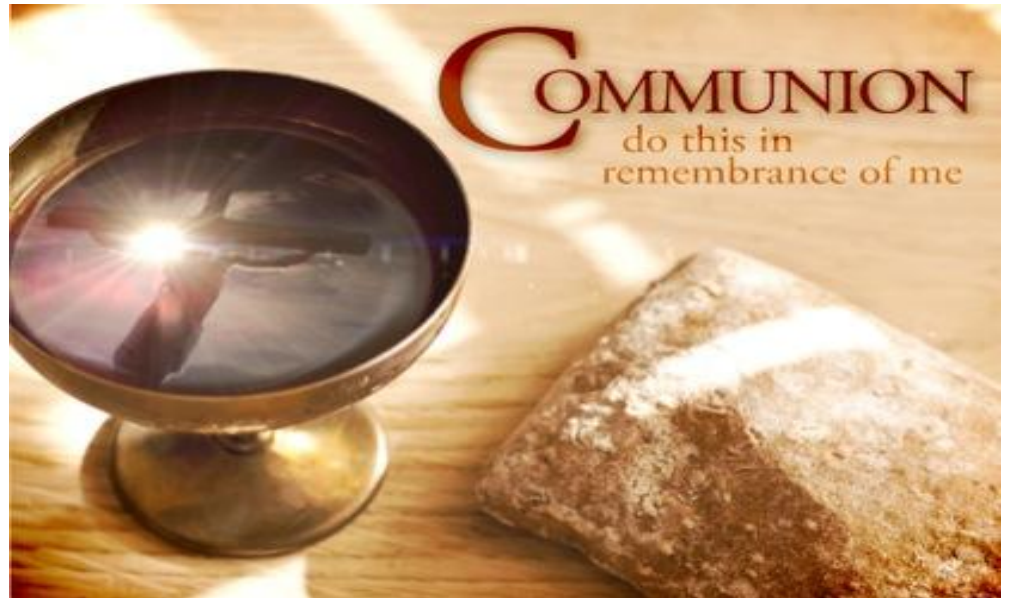
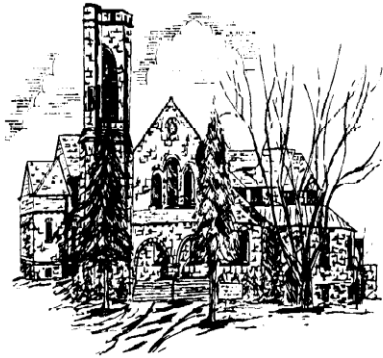
St. John's Newsletter

February 2018

**Please join us on Sunday, March 3rd
at 10:00 a.m.**

St. John's Presbyterian Church
28 2nd Street East
Cornwall ON, K6H 1Y3

613-932-8693



***“Knowing,
Enjoying and
Sharing
Christ's Love
With All”***

Search Committee News

We are happy to report that we have received 15 profiles from Ministers interested in St. John's. The Committee has been hard at work reading these profiles, listening to and watching electronic sermons, and contemplating who is the best match for our church. It is our hope to narrow the candidates to 3 or 4, then visit them in their current positions. Please keep your Search Committee in your prayers as we seek to discern who God is calling to form a new pastoral relationship with our congregation and community.



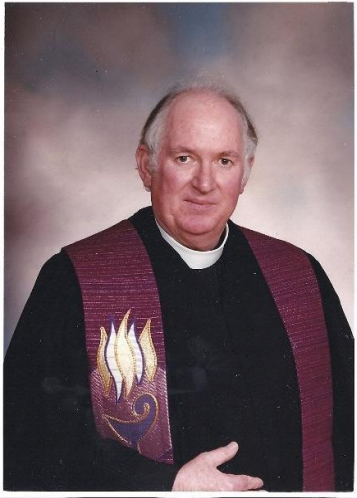
Newsletter

Susan MacDonald
Cynthia Seguin
Carol Esdale
John Adams
Martha Woods

Cynthia Seguin
Search Committee Chair



“Basically, we're looking for an innovative pastor with a fresh vision who will inspire our church to remain exactly the same.”



From the Pastor's Desk

February/March 2019

You do not have because you do not ask. (James 4:2)

We have been entrusted with a great legacy here at St. John's, Cornwall. There is something awesome about the ministry and mission in the name of Jesus Christ that has been conducted in this community since 1787. 232 continuous years of faithful Christian witness have stood the test of time and have endured many challenges. And what of us who continue the work in the year of our Lord, 2019?

I had the opportunity to sit with a lady a few months ago and she shared some of her personal memories from a book she kept after her marriage in 1926. I did not keep as many notes as I wish I had, but I was particularly interested in how she and her late husband had written down every penny they earned and how it was spent. For example, 1 loaf of brown bread = 3 cents (c), 1 pint of cream 2c, 3 pork chops 8c, load of coal \$5, telephone call 5c, church offering 10c, etc. Page after page representing weeks and years, and I noted the inclusion of "church offering" 5c and 10c. I think it was about 1932 when there was a note, Sabbath School, 1c. I assume that was when her son started to attend Sabbath (Sunday) School. During that time she and her family participated in a small congregation in the Ottawa Valley. I have seen pictures of the original church building, and today there is a new contemporary building in its place.

We here at St. John's have inherited and others have come to join a congregation with a long and devoted history. The properties along Pitt Street were purchased with pennies, nickels and dimes, and perhaps a few whole dollars. Today we are privileged to walk, work, and worship in the footsteps of the early settlers, the Empire Loyalists and those who followed after. As I write this I think of that wonderful hymn many of you know by heart, (a few lines):

*Crowns and thrones may perish,
Kingdoms rise and wane,
But the Church of Jesus
Constant will remain;
Gates of hell can never
'Gainst that church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise,
And that cannot fail.
Onward, then, ye people!
Join our happy throng;
Blend with ours your voices
In the triumph song,
'Glory, laud and honour
Unto Christ the King!
This through countless ages
Men and angels sing.*

I feel with certitude that the ministry and mission we conduct as a congregation, continuing in the name of St. John's, is a sacred trust in all its ways, spiritually and physically. The Oxford Dictionary defines trust as: *a firm belief in reliability; confidence in; place or leave (something) in place with another, without misgiving.* And a trustee: *reliance on someone who will remember/do on behalf of; holds in trust, will manage; will be responsible.*

When I reminisce and dream of what those people thought they were doing 232 years ago, I wonder if they would feel we continue to do them proud. Then reflect about the next one or two generations who shall surely follow us in this community, what will they think or know of us?

The congregation will soon be asked to attend and participate in the Annual Meeting to reflect on the year past (2018). What was accomplished? What are the joys to celebrate? What was great? What might have been more successful? And, what will be contemplated or expected for the year(s) ahead?

As we come to obey our Lord and Saviour at His Holy Table and partake of the visible signs of grace in obedience to Him, my prayer is that you will come with joy and enthusiasm. Hear the call “*Come, just as you are.*” And as you come, be ever mindful that our congregation will only continue with your support, your gifts of Treasure, Time and, Talent.

May you walk with Christ and fulfill your destiny in Him.

Rev. Ian K. Johnston,
Pastor and Interim Minister

If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer. (Matthew 21:22)

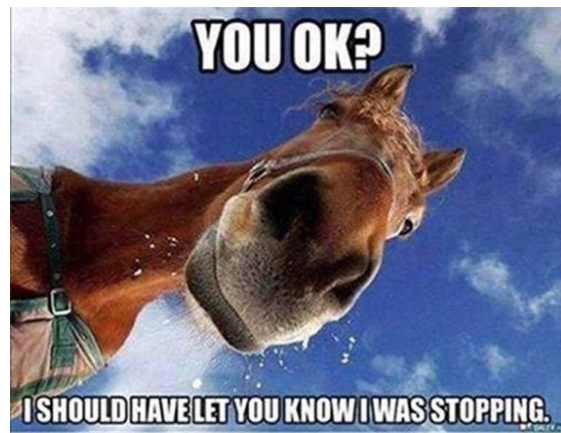
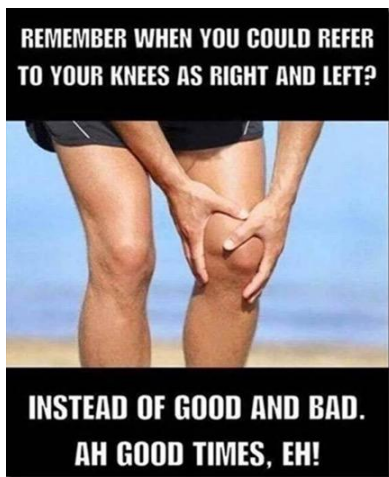
Recycling Initiative

You will notice new blue recycle boxes in various places throughout the church.

Please help us care for the environment by using the bins for recyclable items.



Thank you!



Thinking About Valentine's Day on February 14th

-- **All About Love** revised from The Bible -- Corinthians 13

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen baking dozens of cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties, and sing in the choir's cantata, but do not focus on those I love the most, I have missed the point.

... in other words:

Love stops the cooking to hug a child

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss a spouse,

Love is kind though harried and tired,

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way but is thankful that they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Computer games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust,

But the gift of love will endure forever.

How Do I Love Thee? (Sonnet 43) Elizabeth Barrett Browning. 1806 - 1861

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.

I love thee to the depth and breadth and height

My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight

For the ends of being and ideal grace.

I love thee to the level of every day's

Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.

I love thee freely, as men strive for right.

I love thee purely, as they turn from praise.

I love thee with the passion put to use

In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.

I love thee with a love I seemed to lose

With my lost saints. I love thee with the breath,

Smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God choose,

I shall but love thee better after death.

This is an old favourite

I think I studied it in high school

With Tom Swift or Doug Hill.

If you copy the URL below and paste it into your google browser, you can have the poem read to you.

[How do I love thee? Let me count the ways ~Elizabeth Barrett...](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bD9ycWMiTkW)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bD9ycWMiTkW>

by John Adams

A Celebration for Debbie

We celebrated the many years of dedication and service Debbie Plant gave to the Youth of St. John's with a luncheon in her honour. Over 100 people gathered to say thank you for her great contributions. Many speakers shared memories of the wonderful things that she did for our youth, as well as other children from the community. Debbie was presented with a floral candle arrangement and monetary gift as a small token of our appreciation.

We wish her all the best as she pursues full time work with the diocese, and we are glad she will continue to be with us in worship and fellowship.



Session Update

The following summary was presented during the announcements on January 13, 2019. It is the Session's intent to inform as many of our congregation as possible, in order to prepare you for the Annual Congregational Meeting on April 7th. St. John's is in a period of transition. Our search for a new Minister is proceeding extremely well, and with some good, solid decision making, and your support, we are poised to enter a new decade with community, strength, faith, and a positive outlook for the future.

The Session met on Monday, January 8, 2019. Reverend Johnston constituted the Court with a reading from Hebrews 12, verses 4-11. The lesson was about the loving nature of God's discipline. Discipline is painful for both parties – the recipient and giver; however, God's divine discipline is an expression of His love for us. We choose our attitudes and responses – we can submit and learn his love, or rebel against it. The result of rebellion is an angry heart. We are to trust in His perfect will and choose to be teachable. In addition to prayers for people in the congregation, Reverend Johnston prayed that our hearts, minds and ears be open to hear what God's purpose is for St. John's, and that we remember what our ministry is truly about.

On December 11th, a motion was passed unanimously that the loose offering on Christmas Eve be given to Baldwin House. On December 23rd we received a Notice of Motion to reconsider. As a result, we were unable to announce the designation on December 24th. On January 8th, the motion to reconsider was passed, which meant that the original motion was defeated, and a new motion had to be put forward. The new motion stated that the loose offering be sent to Baldwin House and, after discussion, the motion was passed by a good majority. Therefore, the Christmas Eve loose offering of \$1,101.23 has been sent to Baldwin House.

At 7:30 p.m. representatives from the Board of Managers, Trustees, and Women of the Church joined the Session to consider the 2019 Budget. The proposed amount is \$267,128.95. This amount exceeds the expected revenue, assuming all income sources remain the same, and therefore it will be a deficit budget. This reality sparked a great deal of discussion about the current situation of the church, and it is important for you to be aware of this information.

First, there are the outstanding loans from the Heritage Trust Fund. In 2017, \$25,000 was borrowed and in 2018, \$25,000 was borrowed again to meet the operating expenses. So, given a few donations, the total outstanding loan is \$49,665.00. This data indicates that the Board is unable to operate the church without borrowing a minimum of \$25,000 a year from the Heritage Trust Fund.

You need to know that there is still an outstanding roof loan of \$18,067.07 and the mortgage owing to the city of Cornwall is \$11,375.74, which brings the total amount the church is owing to \$79,107.81.

Second, we have been informed that this beautiful old building is in need of many repairs that, like all old buildings, are never ending. Currently, the jobs list we have been given is a conservative estimate of \$500,000 within the next 5 years. The list includes \$250,000 to the Caldwell Hall roof, \$150,000 to the Bell Tower, \$80,000 to heating and plumbing, \$5,000 plus for an engineering report on an upgrade to the electrical system, repairs to fire alarm system at approximately \$8,000, and an unknown amount for the recommendations in the recent inspection report.

As of December 31, 2018, the Heritage Trust Fund has a remaining value of \$697,336.37.

With these challenging financial and structural problems, the Session has tasked Karen Blanchard and Kerry Adams to put together a steering committee. The Committee will investigate the problems and bring a report to Session so that we can have a more comprehensive understanding of the situation before presenting options to the congregation regarding the future of St. John's.

Session felt it was prudent to postpone the annual congregational meeting until April 7th in order to give the committee time to do their work regarding the financial and physical state.

Thank you, The Kirk Session.

Pageant Sunday: A New Star





Christmas Eve was a wonderful celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. 250 people filled the pews and enjoyed worshipping in the beautifully decorated sanctuary. The music was very special, and included Therese Motard, Steve Dubinsky, Roy and Julie Choi, Ariel and Sarah Thomas, and of course, our amazing organist, Gary Postma. We were treated to the special vocal talents of the Bharath family and a congregational choir consisting of young and old.

Luke 2:11

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.



